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## NEWS

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### SCIENCE VS. TECHNOLOGY IN CHINA

... "In the US and other advanced capitalist nations most of the distinctions between science and technology have become blurred, and technology appears as a natural extension of science rather than as something essentially different. But in China the distinction continues to be pronounced. A bright Chinese boy about to take the college entrance examinations might well perceive those differences as follows: If accepted into a science department, he is assured of at least four years of higher education and has a reasonably good chance of going on to graduate school. Furthermore, a student in science is much more likely than is an engineering student to be admitted to one of the larger and better universities in a major city—an important career and personal consideration. After graduation . . . he dreams of a career in one of the institutes of the Chinese Academy of Sciences or, at worst, in a research facility subordinate to a provincial academy, in one of the production ministries, or even in a national defense research unit. Such dreams are inappropriate for the

overwhelming majority of prospective engineering students. Many will end up in a specialized college with only a two- or three-year curriculum, located in one of the smaller and 'duller' towns. Even after graduating from a four-year engineering school, the likelihood of getting into a graduate program would be slim. On graduating, he will be assigned a job in a factory, mine, construction project or other enterprise where his working and living conditions are likely to be greatly inferior to those of the scientist. Obviously, these are generalizations which are not detailed or recognized in either official or unofficial writing, but they help to explain why most middle-school graduates prefer science and not engineering as a major."

[(Leo A. Orleans (Library of Congress) in *Current* (269): 37-9, Jan 85 (From *Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists*) Reproduced with permission from Press Digest, *Current Contents*®, No. 13, April 1, 1985, p. 16, (Published by the Institute for Scientific Information®, Philadelphia, PA, USA )]

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### COULD HIBERNATION BENEFIT HUMANS?

... "While in deep hibernation, animals are exceptionally resistant to disease and infection. Their mental processes, though apparently suspended, are not impaired. Researchers have found that animals who have been taught prior to hibernation to solve lab problems, can, immediately upon being aroused, accurately remember what they learned. The potential implications of hibernation for humans have long intrigued scientists. Ever since space travel became a realistic prospect, there has been speculation that something akin to hibernation might be advantageous

for crewmen making long voyages through the heavens. A more immediate if less glamorous possibility is that periods of induced hibernation would benefit patients undergoing or recovering from certain types of medical treatment."

[(Bill Gilbert in *Smithsonian* 15(11): 60-9, Feb 85) Reproduced with permission from Press Digest, *Current Contents*®, No. 13, April 1, 1985, p. 18 (Published by the Institute for Scientific Information®, Philadelphia, PA, USA.)]

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